

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
WAYCROSS DIVISION

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WAYCROSS, GA  
2008 OCT 24 A 11:24

EDDIE D. COOK, JR.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

APRIL GARRARD,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV508-052

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S ORDER AND REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Plaintiff, who is presently incarcerated at Coffee Correctional Facility in Nicholls, Georgia, was granted leave of the Court, by Order dated June 30, 2008, to proceed in forma pauperis in an action contesting the conditions of his confinement.

A prisoner proceeding in forma pauperis in a civil action against officers or employees of government entities must comply with the mandates of the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915. 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(g) of the PLRA provides:

In no event shall a prisoner bring a civil action or appeal a judgment in a civil action or proceeding under this section if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). This provision of the PLRA "requires frequent filer prisoners to prepay the entire filing fee before federal courts may consider their lawsuits and appeals." Rivera v. Allin, 144 F. 3d 719, 723 (11th Cir. 1998).

A review of Plaintiff's history of filings reveals that he has brought at least three cases that were dismissed and count as strikes under § 1915(g): (1) Cook v. Hunt, 1:03-CV-215-CC (N.D. Ga. March 3, 2003) (dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted); (2) Cook v. Morton, 1:04-CV-1587-CC (N.D. Ga. August 11, 2004) (dismissed for failure to exhaust state remedies); and (3) Cook v. Morton, 1:05-CV-2179-CC-JFK (N.D. Ga. August 9, 2008) (dismissed as time-barred).

The Eleventh Circuit upheld the constitutionality of section 1915(g) in Rivera v. Allin, 144 F.3d 719 (11th Cir. 1998). In so doing, the Court concluded that section 1915(g) does not violate an inmate's rights to access to the courts, to due process of law, or to equal protection, or the doctrine of separation of powers. Id. at 721-27. Because Plaintiff has filed three previously dismissed cases which qualify as strikes under section 1915(g), Plaintiff may not proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action unless he can demonstrate that he meets the "imminent danger of serious physical injury" exception to § 1915(g).

Plaintiff cannot claim that he should be excused from prepaying the filing fee because of the "imminent danger of serious physical injury" exception to § 1915(g). In order to come within the imminent danger exception, the inmate must be in imminent danger at the time he files suit in district court, not at the time of the alleged incident that serves as the basis for the complaint. Medberry v. Butler, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11th Cir. 1999). As noted by the Court, "a prisoner's allegation that he faced imminent

danger sometime in the past is an insufficient basis to allow him to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to the imminent danger exception to the statute." *Id.* at 1193.

In his Complaint, Plaintiff asserts that Defendant stole money from him. Plaintiff further asserts that, in the past, Defendant placed him in harm's way, kidnapped him, and targeted his family. Plaintiff has not shown that he was in imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed his Complaint on June 26, 2008. Accordingly, the Court **VACATES** its June 30, 2008, Order. Plaintiff's request to proceed in forma pauperis is **DENIED**, and this case should be **DISMISSED**. If Plaintiff wishes to proceed with this action, he should be required to resubmit his Complaint along with the full filing fee.

**SO ORDERED** and **REPORTED** and **RECOMMENDED**, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.

  
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JAMES E. GRAHAM  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE